

2-3-1978

## Issues in the Church Today

Wyatt Sawyer

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**HARDING**  
U N I V E R S I T Y

Erin  
Wilson#1 Lesson in Ch. Today? 1105.

1. H.S. - Hugo - Edgefield - T.C.!
2. any prob. solved by T.C.!
3. Junior teach?
  - A. Matt. 6:33. *what ahead of 1 in Roman numbers system?*
  - a. 1978 Texas Relays - team left.
  - b. Lundy Cofay - Jew!
  - c. W H - Pitcher.
- B. Matt. 22:37. what above all?
- C. Matt. 6:19-21. 1st check?
- d. I Cor. 15:58. who doing this?
4. Cecil Osborn: ant of Under. Self!
  - 10% - do 90% work.
  - 30% - give 70% of budget. Fair?
  - "Car cry from N.T. Church pattern!"
  - 100% with Dallas - Psychiatric???
5. Results:
  - a. always short of B.S. Teachers? why
  - not enough committed Chr.!!
  - b. Low 7 Bus Min. workers.
  - not enough committed.
  - c. Suggest: 3 team B.S. Rotation:
  - 3 team Bus Min., Visitation
  - EVERY MEMBER involved
  - in something?
6. Goal: John 3:3-5.
- Inv. Like: cabbler. (Possible).
- \* Matt. 25:34 + 40.

Child  
Miner  
Warden

# Its Great To Meet 1105. a serious challenge.

Int. Ill. Hugo McCord + H.S.  
student. no issue in Ch. today.  
Possibilities:? McCord, "T.C." Kid: "In top 10."  
God: Same as always. Sent. 12:1-7.

challenge: not a single problem -  
in a life, a family, a business,  
or a church but can be  
satisfactorily solved by total commitment  
to God.

I What does Jesus say and  
are we listening ???

CHURCH: a convenience? Salut? aspirin?  
A. Matt. 6:33. Church First.

Ill. 1978. Texas Relays. Waco.  
Rain. Flowed over into Sunday. Baylor.  
One winning team went home.  
which? Our team from Abilene? etc.  
NO! State of Utah! Highly committed.

Ill. Landis Kofas - never  
pitched on Sabbath. Committed Jew.  
Serious about his FAITH.



B. Cal. 3:1-4. **Jesus died for His Church.**  
Questions: **Is God Reasonable??**

1. What is most respected + admired rel. group in U.S.? CFC? So dedicated?? most serious.
2. What rel. body has the highest priority system today and the highest level of values? CFC?

(1) Ill. Dallas H.S. pitcher. Wed. intercity-champ game. Father, an elder. Request: adjust MWS. Early + shorten. Embarrass. "I didn't start MWS." Church almost: 40% members absent. Rest went after Church - 2nd rate. Eventually. Membership dropped: 600-28.

(2) Ill. Jersey Village Lisco. 60 youth a night to 6 on Fri. nite.

Ill. (3) Jim Fowler - "Lead" in Irving High Senior play. Not practice on Wed. night. Date changed.

Inv. Obeying God a real challenge. Listening to anybody else a real challenge.

True Chr. Discipleship keeps God in 1st place in our lives.

How doing? need to: Acts 2:38.  
need to: Lk. 13:3.

okmugel, opla. 3-24-84. 1B

THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN THE CHURCH

INT: \* Deut. 12:1-7. *What say to you? ME! Plenty.*  
 Ill. H.S. student at Edgefield CofC in Dallas:  
 "Bro. (Hugo) McCord, what do YOU think the number  
one issue IS, in the church today?" **YOU THINK?**

POSSIBILITIES: Divorce & remarriage. Women's  
 Lib. Social drinking. Humanism. Deterioration  
 of the Christian Home. Worldliness. Laziness.  
None of these!!!

Bro. McCord: "Son, it's Total Committment to  
 Jesus as LORD! **RULER!** % *Psychologist!!! Dallas.*

Student: "Well, I guess that WOULD be in the  
 top ten!!!"

CHALLENGING OBSERVATION: There is not ONE  
 problem in a Christian LIFE or in the LORD'S  
church but would be solved by a deep spiritual  
 dedication to the Savior!!!

I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH?

1. Matt. 6:33. What is first with God!

What comes ahead of FIRST?????

Ill. 1978 Texas Relays on Sunday. One team  
 went home. Refused to run on LORD'S day!

Know which? Christians??? NO!! **MORMONS!!!**

Remember **Sandy Kofax?** Jew! Not on Saturday!!!

Ill. Dallas case. Pitched on Wed. night and  
 his dad, an elder, wouldn't even set classes  
 early. Just IGNORED the Mid-week Service!!!  
*"I didn't start it. I didn't honor it either!"*

2. Matt. 22:37. What's first with God!

What goes above ALL??????

3. Matt. 6:19-21. What's first with God?

What CHECK do we write first weekly, monthly?

4. Col. 3:1-4. What do TRUE Christians seek 1st?

5. I Cor. 15:58. ABOUNDING: overflowing.

Exceeding measure. Excelling MORE!

II. WHAT IS THE REAL ISSUE TODAY?

A. It is TRUE RELIGION! which involves Studying,  
Worshipping and Serving God **FIRST!**

II Tim. 2:15. John 4:24. Jas. 1:27.

B. SOME FAIR OBSERVATIONS:



1. If ALL one can do is WORSHIP the Lord ONE hour on Sun. morn.....that ALL God expects! Ill. Bro. Glenn Holden, elder at Midtown could do NO MORE. Totally acceptable to God. Died 6-12-78.
- 2: Does God expect 5 talent man to USE all five? Did in Matt. 25:20. Then 21. 3 use 2?
3. Do you frown on Organized religion? Advocate "individual" service only???? TRUTH: Takes both. I Cor. 14:40 Organize!
  - a. Successful Business, Industries, Schools and Churches have one motto: PLAN YOUR WORK AND WORK YOUR PLAN!!! Football. Army
4. CECIL OSBORNE, The Art of Understanding Yourself, ch. 1, page 16: " In the average church 10% of the members do 90% of the work. Thirty % of the members give 90% of the budget. Forty % of the members attend faithfully EVERY Sunday morning." Ads: "This is a far cry from the Victorious New Testament Church!!!"
5. The Lord's Church has MULTI-OFFERINGS for the exercise of your talents for Christ! Total Commitment make it easy!
  - a. BS always SHORT on teachers. Why? Not enough Committed Christians!!
  - b. Bus Ministry always short on workers! Why? Not enough Committed Christians!
  - c. Visitation Programs: Always needing more! Why? Not enough Committed Christians! Ought to have a waiting list!!!! ✓
  - d. The answer: Three-team Bible Schools. 3-team visitation program. Rotation.. Relief periods. Rest periods. All share!

CLOSE: Begin by being truly being Born Again! John 3. Detailed in Matt. 16:24-27. Mk. 16:15-16. THEN SERVE!!! LK 6:46. JESUS USED A LOT!

INV: PARABLE OF THE SERVING COBBLER: (Beautiful, fictional story.) MESSAGE, not fictional. REAL! Scottish Shoe Repair-man. DREAM: Jesus visit tomorrow. Excited. Thrilled. Up early. Cleaned up. Waiting.... CHILD: Barefooted in snow. Given shoes. Sox. Jacket. MINER: Lost job. Can't pay. No food. Eat with us. Take. PRISON WARDEN: I'm busy. Deliver shoes to prison. Hesitant. Did. Talked. Encouraged. Prayed. Dark. BED TIME: No visit! Sad. Dream: Matt. 25:34 & 40. 7:30 AM

✓  
Communion  
in Service.  
Prayer  
leaders.

Myler 3-15-79 AM  
Spring 8-6-78 AM 1B 3P  
Calden Hester. 8-24-78. 1B. 3P.  
Richmond, Ky. 4-22-79 AM  
Shawman 7-8-79 AM 0  
Hester 4-6-80  
M-T 2-5-78 1B 3P

# #1 Issue in Church? 1105.

one ~~Don~~ Don. Don. Don.

Erin Milson

DON - DAVID

Number One Issue 1105.

Int. Hugo McCork - Edgfield.

"cheated issue?"

on top 10 I guess!

article

I Scriptures teach??

Matt. 6:33. Ill. Texas Relays, 1988

Sandy Kofay.

Bryon Nelson. seek ??? acting. Passive

Matt. 22:37. what abuse 1st?

Matt. 7:13-14. Hol = all above God's interest!

Matt. 6:19-24.

Teach! which ck. written first weekly?

Brotherhood average: 3-5% = 1st??

II Vital Questions for our Hearts.

1. Why Lord's B.F. always short on TEACHERS?

→ not enough committed servants?

2. Why VISITATION calls go unmade?

→ not enough committed disciples?

3. What's the No. one desire of your heart? God save me forever!!

He wants to; Mk. 16:15-16.!

Close: Jesus has done His part.

What? Dream: one set of footprints. Carried

what #1 in one day TODAY??



NO. I Issue in 1105.  
the Church Today! **1.**

Int. H.S. student - Hugo M C  
Possibilities: Divine, dope, dirt.  
MC = Total Commitment.

Challenge: No per., Home, Church,  
or community problem would  
remain unsolved if we had  
T.C.! *to Jesus + Gospel.*

Question: Self + all have  
dedicated to glory of God  
+ benefit of mankind!  
*all builds up the church!!!*  
"Balance of responsibilities  
and priorities! Spr-Motor."

I Lesson: Three  
scriptures and what  
they **REALLY** mean!



1. Matt. 6:33. what's above 1st? <sup>2.</sup>

Ill. Texas Relays - Baylor.

1978. Sunday. one team  
with-drew. Guess who??

ACU!!! No! Normans!!!

went to worship & went home!

who put Religion - God - Christ 1st.

*who was peculiar?? "purchased possession?"*

2. 1 Cor. 15:58. abounding men?

Ill. Dallas H. S. baseball

playoff. Kimball's ace pitcher -

an Elder's son. who came

in 2nd? M.W.S. - O.G.C.

God! Christ! Bible! *How Chr. distinctive?*

*sign up*  
what do?? Ill. Like Jimmy

Fowler, Jr. Irving. M.W.S.

Play rehearsal changed!!!

Don't stand out! Until stand up!

3. Col. 3:1-4.

3.

St. Stephenville meeting. 1980.

Season basting meeting!

Sun! Mon! . A C U vs

"Lorton State - Basketball!"

needed A C U rep. - Ex. To  
welcome A C U. Time: 7:30.

Skipped "soul saving" effort  
for athletic contest.

No harm?! Question??

1st? Church or a game? *Bar Church? unique?*

Christ or a crowd?

Souls or fun?

Gospel or world?

1st? abounding in LORD??

Juv. Divine spotlight on N S.!

II Pet. 3:18. Grow! Grow. Grow.

not a follower yet: Mk. 16:15-16.

Poor example: Lk. 13:3.

"The Joy of Salvation!" - 1105.

No. 1 Issue in the Church!

Int. Hugo McCord + H.S. student.

No 1 issue today: TOTAL COMMITMENT

I. a Fair Look at the Issue.  
H. What does God's Word say??

1. Matt. 20:16 + 22:14. FEW?

Have a feeling today - some of us -  
are practicing easy + convenient  
religion. Note: Matt. 7:21-23.

Easy + convenient kind??

Note: Matt. 7:13-14.

Easy + convenient kind??

This explains why few saved?  
New challenge true commitment  
+ pay the price? odd ball. Peculiar.

B. Examine some former  
failures at total Commitment.  
See if you agree?

Ill. 1. Lothie McAdams, Football game.  
Head of Home Econ. Dept. at H.S.  
HAD to sell hot dogs!  
What do with Matt. 6:33? Ignore!  
No wonder CO not highly respected  
in her home town. Close meetings?  
before F.R. nights?

Football  
Week 8:35!



2. Jersey Village Meeting. Hastback (2).  
Dist. play off 7 mi. nite. 40-50 -  
young people at meeting M-T nites.  
Request: Early service FRI.?  
all go to game! "They'll be here!"  
FRI. NIGHT: NO young people! House  
half empty. cheer leaders, drum major,  
quarterback. Flexibility keep church  
first. Poor planning. Work WITH.  
human nature not against it!

3. Wynnewood Hills. Wed. night  
city Championship game. Best pitcher  
an elder's son. Set ser. up. No!  
Embarrass us! So forced church to  
choose. Went  $\frac{1}{2}$  &  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Elder said "I  
didn't set wed nite as MWS night.  
Espoused it when accepted the  
Church's program when went in.  
\* \* \* I can ignore MWS this time why  
not ALL time? This leadership  
helped send this Cong. down  
from 600+ to 40 mem. & a  
merg with a stronger Cong. Poor  
convenient? Committee.

church not respected! 2nd-3rd place!

4. So. Delaware. Evening.  
Jimmy Fowler, Jr. Sr. Play.  
Rehearsal wed. night. NOT ME,  
I go to MWS. Then lose lead.  
"Goodbye!" Teacher Changed.  
Rehearsal Thur. night. 1st  
things first! II Pet. 3:18.

\* what would intense loyalty to Lord's  
Church EVERY ser. do for it?  
Elevate it? Glorify it. Strengthen it.  
what's 1st in your life today?  
Church? 100% dedicated??  
sacrifice for IT??

Close: Test: ~~Col.~~ Col. 3:1-3.

How are you doing?  
1. Church here highly respected &  
admired - ded. of its members!  
Let NOTHING come ahead of Christ!  
You had an easy-convenient rel. &  
realize it is NOT acceptable. acts 8:22 - II Cor. 5:10-11.  
Have a Spir. need only Christ, can fill?  
MK. 16:15-16. COME!

THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN THE CHURCH  
TODAY?

INT: Hugo McCord. H. S. student. Edgefield  
 No. 1. Total Commitment in Chr.

I. WHAT EVIDENCE WE ARE NOT????

A. Attendance: 72-75% Sun. morn. a.  
 of those available.

Ill. R.L. Whiteside meeting.  
 Thur. "my night OUT".

b. Sun. Eve. 50%. P.M. activities  
 more imp. than II Pet. 3:18.

Matt. 5:16. Ill. Joe Blue's  
 bro. Ploughing. Lightening...

c. Wed. Night: 30-35%. Why?

→ All absentees VITALLY involved

COMMENT: "Attendance isn't everything"

ANS::: No..just TIP of iceberg!!!

\*What great works men - attenders doing??

B. GENEROUS, LIBERAL, UNSELFISH,  
 TRUSTING---GIVING.

Ill. Survey: 10 adult classes  
 W. H. Av: 3%, one 40%.

MUST we use 97%? Cannot  
 scale down to 90%..85%, 80%  
 Problem? What's first? PIIC.9:7-8

C. WHAT DO THESE PASSAGES MEAN?

1. Matt. 22:37. What's above  
 first? Most??? Best???

(OVER)



Beedeville 8-2-81.  
math.  
16:24.

Cliffwood 3-15-81 A/M 3R  
Harrison, Ark. 4-26-81. 3R  
Pineville, La. 5-16-81 Y/M.

Ill. Jimmy Fowler <sup>jr.</sup> Delaware St.  
Irving. Wed. Sr. Play....  
WHO first in HIS life?????

2. Matt. 6:33. <sup>with Home, vs school, vs Jesus!</sup>  
<sup>1980. vs pleasure.</sup>

Ill. Stephenville meeting. Thur.  
Basketball player. ACU. 1966.  
ACU-vs-Tarleton State U.

Request: Rep. ACU at Intro. OK!!

What's above first???

What's more vital than SOULS!!

(Town knew Gospel Meeting.

WHO first in HIS night?????

No wonder CHURCH an AFTER-THOUGHT!

It's put 2nd or 3rd or 4th.

3. Col. 3:1-5.

Why church SHORT on Elders and  
Deacons today???

Church BELOW 1st in lives!!

Why church short on BS teachers?

Few Totally Committed!!!

Why church short on personal  
evangelists, visitation teams

Members less than totally  
committed.

INV: WHAT IS TOTAL COMMITMENT????

Give me an EXAMPLE, if know one!

Ill. Jewish girl in F. W. YWCA.

Embraced Christ. CUT OFF!!

QUESTION: YOU?? part of the PROBLEM  
or SOLUTION in No. 1 Problem?????????

1105.  
Total Commitment  
as a Christian! BORN AGAIN??

Lesson: Challenge in four passages.

1. Matt. 6:19-21. Negative.

19. Lay up for God? Lk. 16:9. Mammon.

20. Present investments - future dividend.

21. attitude: Heart with treasure! Up-down.

all have is God anyway. Hor. 10:26.  
You committed it to HIM??

2. Matt. 6:33. Positive.

ll. ✓ Church before Home? makes better homes.  
Pasadena. ✓ Church above School? makes better students.

✓ Church over Job? Ill. P.A. deacon.

✓ Church over Self? or lose self. more!

all have is God anyway.  
Afraid to Commit? II Cor. 9:8!

3. Matt. 16:24-27. Self!

✓ what denied? Time? Money? Popularity? Friends? Ill. II Tim. 3:12

✓ Take up cross? What cross? \$8000 glass pane.

✓ Follow? to all shame? T.V. channels?  
Chr. ser. Reg?? World Land!

Over

# 4. Col. 3:1-4.

If risen? Why down? Penitent?  
Humble?  
Scared?

Seek = Goal is Matt. 6:19-21. 6:33.

Dead - Separated from LUST of eyes,  
flesh + pride of life!  
Heart centered on Jesus!

appear - Honor or dishonor!

Having to appear AT <sup>Judgment</sup> Throne

Some appear WITH JESUS!

Some appear WITHOUT HIM.

Question: As ARE right  
now?

Crowned with honor  
and glory!?

Sent away empty handed  
+ empty hearted. Which?

Cleburn 4-5-81. o



The Number One Issue 1105.

Int. Story: H. S. student. Edgefield.  
Hugo McCord. ?? No I issue today?  
 ans: "total commitment." In top 10.

I. What IS T.C.? What require?  
 Same always? Same for all?

1. Simon. Matt. 19: 27-30. special case?

2. Rich Rule. Matt. 19: 16-26. all?  
 mth. 10: 21. whatever. Lk. 18: 22. all!

This make you uncomfortable? ?  
 Jesus asking you to sell all + give all!

II. What is our yardstick?

1. Matt. 6: 33. Priority in life's search?

2. Matt. 16: 24-27. Goal in search?

3. Col. 3: 1-4. Priority in Direction?

ans.: 1. Consider God's Will FIRST.  
 2. Offer to God our very BEST.

conc: Involves:  
 1. our investments. TIME. MONEY.  
 TALENT.  
 INFLUENCE.

2. our commitments.  
 God's will always first!  
 J. 1978 Texas Relays. Sum! who pulled out? 1st.

Ill. Sandy Kofay. Pitcher. (2)  
 NEVER and Sat! Why Jew!  
 1st? His career? His rel. to God?

### III A Bold Examination. How compare ???

1. Cecil Osborn: The art of Understanding yourself. Stats: 10% do 90% work  
 30% give 90% \$\$\$ 40% attend reg.

#### 2. Questions:

a. Why church always short on  
teachers? not enough T.C.!

b. Why church always short on  
Bbs. Min. workers? Low on T.C.

c. Why never enough doing  
Visitation? Few T.C.!

Obser. When Church T.C. <sup>ed.</sup> Can rotate  
 all workers. Work-rest. Teach-study.  
 change jobs for variety. all involved  
 in something. Ill. Keep nursery. T.A.T.A.

Int. One V. T. nurse says it all!  
 I Cor. 15: 58. always! when retirement  
 abounding: more & more?  
 acts 2: 38. I John 1: 9.